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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Alleged Extensive Anthracite Deposite in the Lower
Ob Region

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "New rich deposits of anthracite and of oil have been allegedly discovered in the lower part of the Ob River basin in Western Siberia. The discovery is being kept in utmost secrecy. The deposits are considered a 'reserve' and have been little exploited to date.
2. "Reports which cover the period from July 1952 to the end of November 1952, indicate that the research in this area was conducted by the West Siberian Branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences which has headquarters at Novosibirsk. The actual field work was carried out by the Scientific Expedition of the Moscow Petroleum Institute (Nauchnaya Ekspeditsiya Moskinstnefti) and by the Polar [?] Institute (Institut Vsekhnov Mersloti).
3. "The main base for these research expeditions is located at Novosibirsk. Field bases have been established in:

Khanty - Mansiysk (at the junction of the Ob River and the Irtysh River)
Belozero [not in NIS Gazetteer] - several bases in the region of islands at
the confluence of the Rivers Kasym and Ob
Salekhard (formerly Obdorsk), an important railway junction and port near
the mouth of the Ob River
The area of the Nadym River which flows into the Gulf of Ob. Three or four
bases have been established.

4. "All these field bases are equipped with radio stations and landing fields. The communication between the principal bases at Novosibirsk and Salekhard and the various field bases is maintained by planes.

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5. [redacted] vast deposits of anthracite in the lower Ob region were
in 1944 [redacted]

[redacted] vast deposits of anthracite in the area of one of the eastern
tributaries of the Ob River. The area in question was not even properly marked on
their maps. After the end of World War II special expeditions began to explore the
area on the basis of these reports. These searches, carried out mainly by planes,

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identified during 1949-1951 a vast stretch of land where anthracite deposits are located. This area, covers about 80,000 sq km. It is about 400 km wide in the direction east-west and about 200 km long from north to south.

6. "The center of the new deposits is located north of the Kazym River, an eastern tributary of the Ob river. Further north, where several other tributaries join the Ob is the region of the Yablochkin Mountains. It is in this mountain area that the largest deposits of anthracite have been found. Surface deposits have also been found on the Yamal peninsula.
7. "Only the deposits closest to Salekhard are being exploited. New railway branch lines were put into operation in August 1952 to facilitate the transport of the mined anthracite."

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